

The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington



Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC 20036

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI, No. 10

JUNE, 1975

Nan Goland, Editor

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington began its 1974-75 season on a Friday the 13th (when Big Chief Ellis boogied through in September) and will end it on a Friday the 13th. But what a way to go! Our program for June features two performers who are about as different as they could be--one had been playing for about 40 years when the other was born--yet with a surprising amount in common. To me, they are both legends, though they are two generations apart. Come one come all to a super evening, with the music of (ta-daah!)

PAUL CADWELL

AND

HANK SCHWARTZ

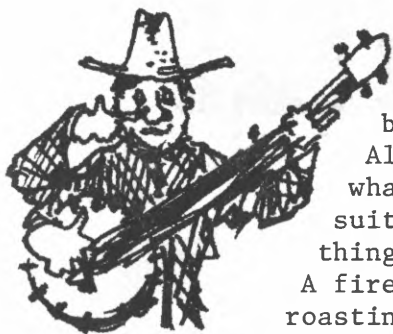
I asked Paul Cadwell, who is comfortably ensconced in his mid-80's, when he first put his hands on a banjo. "It was the last week in the previous century," he said, without dropping a beat. "A rainy afternoon." He plays what is nowadays known as "classical banjo," although his immediate definition of the term is "a misnomer." It's the only style there was from about 1880 to World War I, he says. It was played finger-style--no picks--and everybody used gut strings. The music was often written out note-for-note, and the tunes came from everywhere: Tin Pan Alley, jazz, even classical music. Remember those pictures of guys in tails and spats and wing-tip collars but with banjos? Yup. That was them. Paul, by the way, is playing better than I've ever heard him (ask anyone who was at Indian Neck this year). He's not just--and I apologize to Paul for not knowing a delicate way to put this--good for an old-timer. He's dynamite regardless! But then what do you expect from a guy with a law degree from Harvard, another degree from Yale and who has worked, among other things, as a cigar wrapper?

Meanwhile, Hank Schwartz lives! In about 1963, he and a bunch of other folkies got together and recorded an album for Elektra called "The Old Time Banjo Project," on which he played a tune called "Brighter Day." Somehow, that tune became the center of a little cult (in my case, Hank was the first folk musician that I really dug before I had ever heard his name) which has lasted to this day. When I ran into him a few years ago (at Indian Neck again) it was like meeting a fictional character in the flesh. I'd never even seen his face, and I had

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OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

PICNIC/JUNE 21



The annual Society picnic will be held on Saturday afternoon and evening, June 21, beginning at 2:00 PM.

All are invited to bring whatever food and drink suits you and perhaps something to share with others.

A fire will be available for roasting hot dogs, marshmallows, etc., but there will be no grill for hamburgers, so be forewarned.

Bring blankets to sit on (this is not a picnic area but a beautiful 75-acre farm) and a sweater in case it gets chilly. Those with frisbees and softball equipment should bring them along, and, of course, we're hoping for lots of informal singing and picking.

Directions: Take Beltway Exit 34 (Penn. Ave.) out from the District nine miles to Route 408 at Wayson's Corner. Drive five miles on 408 to mailbox marked C.W. Hicks and turn right onto dirt road. The farm is at the end of the dirt road. Please be courteous to our host's neighbors.

-Bill

OPEN SING/JUNE 6

The monthly Open Sings of the Society will continue throughout the summer on the first Friday of each month (even July 4!). Open Sings are hosted by the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW, and begin at 9:00 PM. Admission is \$1 and refreshments are served. This month the sing will be led by Sue Mathieu who has chosen the theme "Heaven and Hell and the Lord of Each." Sue says, "Bring your hymnals and hell-bound choruses. Dwell in Beulah land, ride the down-bound train or walk in that new Jerusalem just like John. Bring all those 'what it's like' and 'who's going there' songs. When you've run out of hymns and dirges, then tie a knot in Satan's tail."

SACRED HARP SING/JUNE 15

This month's *Sacred Harp* sing and pot-luck dinner will be held at the home of Carolyn Smith on Capitol Hill, Sunday, June 15 at 4:00 PM. Call Carolyn at 546-7604 to get directions and find out what to bring.

We don't have any *Sacred Harp* sings scheduled in July or August, but anyone who wants can organize or host a sing. Call Arlene Rodenbeck at 462-3667 if you're interested in having one or finding out if one is planned during the summer.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/JUNE 3

The combined old and new boards will meet on Tuesday, June 3 at 8:00 PM at the office of the National Folk Festival Association, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Avenue NW. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, same time and place, and are open to interested members of the Society.

OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

DUES TO GO UP IN OCTOBER

An increase in Society dues will take effect on October 1, 1975. The new rates are \$6 individual and \$9 family for one year. Three-year memberships will be \$18 and \$27. The non-member admission to programs will be raised from \$1.50 to \$2.

You may join or renew your membership (no matter when your renewal comes due) before October at the old rates, so plan ahead. Consider a three-year membership for extra savings.

FSGW PHONE NUMBER: (703) 920-2067

REMEMBER TO CALL THE FSGW HOT-LINE THIS SUMMER TO GET UP-TO-DATE INFO ABOUT FOLKLORE SOCIETY EVENTS.

ELECTION RESULTS

Your newly-elected 1975-76 Executive Board, which takes office on July 1 according to our By-Laws, is as follows:

- President
Helen Schneyer 949-4552
- Vice President
Debbie Hutton 270-2217
- Treasurer
Lars Hanslin 393-1574
- Secretary
Carolyn Hoover 656-7634
- Program Chairman
Jonathan Eberhart 667-0778
- Special Events Chairman
Alan Mackall 703-670-4988
- Membership Chairman
Don Nichols 938-4564
- Publications Chairman
Nan Goland 332-0232
- Publicity Chairman
Phil Saunders 891-3809
- Members-at-Large
Mary Cliff 536-6900
Carly Gewirz 548-1680

WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

MARYLAND FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL/JULY 11-13

A Festival of Maryland Folklife will be held at the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster, Maryland, Friday through Sunday, July 11-13. Strictly traditional music, crafts and folklife will be presented in a style similar to the Smithsonian's Festival. Admission will be around \$1.50 for adults. Reid Martin, who is locating the participants for this festival, asks anyone who knows of an interesting Maryland craftsman, musician, instrument maker, singer or talker, to call him at 949-4552.

BARBARA DANE CONCERT/JUNE 1

Bread and Roses Community Music Center is presenting singer Barbara Dane in a concert to benefit the Center on Sunday, June 1 at 8:00 PM at All Souls Unitarian Church, Pierce Hall, 16th and Harvard Streets NW. Tickets are \$2.

BERWYN CAFE BENEFIT/JUNE 7

Thanks to a whole lot of folks we got a pretty fine little concert set up on June 7 at 8:30 PM at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW. Performers are: Those Awkward Years, Jonathan Eberhart, Bruce Hutton, Dave Olive, and a new liason--Bill Destler and Michael Quitt. That's a lot of good music for only \$2.50. In addition, there'll be lots of natural refreshments available so you can get an idea of what we serve at the cafe. Thanks again to all who helped get this evening together.

While we're at it, here's the Saturday evening schedule:

- June 7 - closed for the concert
- June 14 - MARK ALBERT - Once again we're real glad to have a fine classical guitarist. Mark does Bach and Villa Lobos and those guys.
- June 21 - BARRY LOUIS POLISAR - Barry writes children's songs. Songs like: I Got a Teacher, She's So Mean, and I Don't Brush My Teeth and I Never Comb My Hair. So bring children. Barry will do his first set for kids and his second set for older kids. Like you.
- June 28 - FINAL SUMMER OPEN SING - The cafe's Saturday night entertainment will take a break in July and August, so we'll wrap up with an open invite to all who've played the cafe to come celebrate the end of a very high season.

-Jeffrey

DAVE MC KELWAY won first prize in the Old-Time Fiddle Contest in Keyser, West Virginia on April 19, and first prize in the Old-Time Fiddle Contest at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia on April 26. Congratulations!!

BLUEGRASS OPEN SING/JUNE 20

Bluegrass Open Sings will continue through the summer on the third Friday of every month. The next Sing will be Friday, June 20 at 9:00 PM. Donation of \$1 at the door includes refreshments inside. The Bluegrass Open Sing is sponsored by the Ethical Society, 7750-16th Street NW.

BRUCE HUTTON SHARES MUSIC WITH CHILDREN

Introducing young people to traditional music has become a way of life for Bruce Hutton. For over a year he has been doing concerts and workshops for area schools and community groups. The usual program (which is adapted to suit age and interest) consists of a sampler of folk instruments from mouth bow to National Steel Guitar. Bruce introduces each one with a few words about its origins and development in this country. He emphasizes that the music and several of the instruments are homemade and easily accessible to all. This past year he presented workshops to music teachers in DC and Montgomery County, developed and taught a folklore course at Summerset School and was the subject of an article in the *Montgomery County Sentinel*. During the summer he'll be performing for over 4000 teens at the National 4-H Center. Contact Bruce at 270-2217 for more information about his work.

-Debbie

GUITAR CLASS FOR BEGINNERS

If you are an absolute beginner on guitar, this is for you. Jo Zukav, FSGW member, will be teaching the eight-session course through the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. Classes start Thursday, June 26 at 7 or 8:00 PM and will be held twice a week thereafter on Mondays and Thursdays, ending on July 21. Tuning, basic chords, strums and finger picking will be taught. Classes will be held at Arcola Towers at 1135 West University Blvd., (University and Arcola in Silver Spring). Call Jo at 460-4383 for further information.

-Jo

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL/JUNE 25-29, JULY 2-6

The ninth annual Festival of American Folklife will be held on the Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument in two segments: from June 25-29 and from July 2-6. Festival themes illustrate the origins and continuities of American culture. "Old Ways in the New World" deals with the culture immigrants brought with them to the New World. Participants from Japan, Lebanon, Germany, Italy, Panama, Mexico, Ghana and the Caribbean will join their American counterparts in traditional celebrations, songs and dances. "Native Americans" will this year feature the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy from New York State and Ontario and Quebec, Canada. "Working Americans" demonstrates occupational culture and folk expressions that develop among working men and women. This Festival will highlight workers in transportation. "Regional America" will offer music, cookery and crafts from two regions: Coastal California and the Northern Plains. Family folklore focuses on four areas common to all family life--family expressions, nicknames and anecdotes; family foods; things that families do to while away travel time; and family histories. Entire family groups are invited to participate in these activities.

TEA AND ANARCHY

Tea and Anarchy is a group of young men and women interested in singing the songs, dancing the dances and wearing the clothing of the American Revolution. They plan to be ready for engagements on July 1. If you are interested in joining the group or inviting the group to perform, call Adrian Miller at 525-8256.

ENJOY A WEEKEND camping in the Virginia countryside near Shenandoah National Park, June 14 and 15. Old-timey and bluegrass people are welcome. For more information, call Doug Kiessling at 532-1564.

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL/AUGUST 1-3

The first three days of August will find the woods of Wolf Trap ringing to the sounds of some of the most exciting traditional music and dance that's currently being performed in these United States. From the bergs, bayous and backwoods, the 37th National Folk Festival brings you the folks who will bring you the blues, Tex-Mex, gospel, old-timey, Cajun boogie and much, much more! Workshops will be held from 1 to 5 each day, dance parties from 6 to 7. Evening concerts will begin at 8:00 PM in the Filene Center. All daytime activities are free; evening concerts are \$3 and \$4.

Debbie Hutton will be organizing the volunteers for the National Folk Festival. She urges anyone who would like to see this fine Festival from the inside to contact her at 270-2217 or the NFFA office at 296-5322. You can work for two or three hours in exchange for a free ticket to the evening concert. A good deal!

Carolyn Hoover will coordinate housing for out-of-town folkies who want to come to the Festival as volunteers. Call her at 656-7634 if you can offer space to someone.

FOR SALE:

Hand-crafted, four-string dulcimer, rosewood body, spruce top, intricately carved walnut scroll with ebony pegs, rosewood fretboard--\$150. Contact Erich Marschner, 1615 Winford Road, Baltimore, Md., 21239.

Sony TC-800B portable mono reel-to-reel tape recorder, semi-professional, just like the kind that made the famous Nixon tapes. Perfect for field recordings and the summer festival season. Cheap at \$125. Call Mike Rivers at 892-6117 or leave a message on the FSGW answering machine.

New Yamaha guitars, all models. I can also offer new Oscar Schmidt autoharps, any model. I'll tune it and give you a free lesson, too. Special discounts to FSGW members. Call Jo Zukav at 460-4383.

Thanks to the folks who contributed to this issue: Jeffrey Deitchman, Bill Destler, Jonathan Eberhart, Debbie Hutton, Debbie Kodish, Adrian Miller, Jo Zukav. Thanks, too, to Anne Olive for her continued help in sending out the Newsletter.

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- JUNE 1 - BARBARA DANE CONCERT
- 3 - BOARD MEETING
- 6 - OPEN SING
- 7 - BERWYN CAFE BENEFIT
- 13 - PROGRAM
- 15 - SACRED HARP
- 20 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
- 21 - PICNIC
- 25-29 - SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL
- JULY 2-6 - SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL
- 4 - OPEN SING
- 11-13 - MARYLAND FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL
- 18 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING
- AUG. 1-3 - NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL
- 1 - OPEN SING
- 15 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING

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NOTICE TO FOX HOLLOW-BOUND FOLKIES: If you're interested in joint camping at Aqua Vista, rides to and from, maybe a joint kitchen, see Sue Mathieu at the Open Sing or call her at 946-3048 after 4:00 PM.

GLEN ECHO CONCERTS/SUNDAYS AT 6:00 PM

Glen Echo Park will feature free Sunday concerts of bluegrass, folk and jazz as part of its summer program. This month:

- June 1 - The Grass Menagerie
- June 8 - The Rosslyn Mountain Boys
- June 15 - Richard Reiter and Fusion
- June 22 - Tom Ingmo
- June 30 - Bob Brown and Aleta Greene

HAVE A LOVELY LIVELY SUMMER!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign me/us up as members! Enclosed is:

_____ \$5.00 - One year, Individual _____ \$15.00 - Three years, Individual

_____ \$7.50 - One year, Family _____ \$22.50 - Three years, Family

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE: _____ New Membership _____ Renewal

Would you be interested in helping the Society in any way? _____

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assumed he'd hocked his banjo and gone off to be a dentist or something. I was close. Ever since that record, he's been carrying on as an "experimental molecular-beam physicist" (there's a name for a fiddle tune!). A few weeks ago, he performed for the Sweeny-Todd folks in Baltimore, but other than that, this will be his first public gig in more than a decade. Prior to all that not-playing he did things like win a banjo contest at the Philadelphia Folk Festival and perform a lot at the Flambeau in Baltimore (he went to Johns Hopkins, which is probably why the Baltimores got him before we did--I've been trying for more than a year). He learned to play from a fellow named Woody Wachtel, who played on a fretless banjo in the style of Rufus Crisp. These days, Hank is more than just a banjo player. He sings--he would have fit in with the Weavers--plays guitar, even wrote a few tunes. 'Course the culties still think he's a banjo player.

I sort of need a closing paragraph, and if it weren't inappropriate for me to say so, I'd say it's going to be a really nice ending to a really nice season.

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NONPROFIT ORG.

